MATURE CONTENT

Basilisk

1

THE KOUGA
NINJA SCROLLS

ORIGINAL STORY BY FŪTARO YAMADA

MANGA BY MASAKI SEGAWA

Basilisk

ORIGINAL STORY BY FŪTARO YAMADA

BASED ON THE KODANSHA NOVEL *THE KOUGA NINJA SCROLLS*

MANGA BY MASAKI SEGAWA

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY DAVID URY
LETTERED BY FOLTZ DESIGN

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[10 VS 10]

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Basilisk

1

THE IGA AND THE KOUGA ...

...HAVE BEEN SWORN ENEMIES...

SLITHER

THESE TWO...

...NINJA CLANS...

THE DAWN OF TIME.

SINCE...

SWACK

ORIGINAL STORY BY

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THE KOUGA NINJA SCROLLS

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[7 VS 9]

KILL NUMBER 6
[7 VS 9 (PART 2)]

YEAR 19 OF THE KEICHO PERIOD,
APRIL.

SUNPU CASTLE

KILL NUMBER 1

[10 VS 10]

IEYASU TOKUGAWA

SHOGUN

HANZO HATTORI

HEAD OF THE TOKUGAWA NINJA CLAN

MUNENORI YAGIYUU

MASTER FENCING INSTRUCTOR

DANJOU
KOUGA

HEAD OF KOUGA
MANJIDANI
SECT

SHOUGEN
KAZAMACHI

KOUGA
MANJIDANI
SECT

YASHAMARU

IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

OGEN IGA

HEAD OF IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

SUWAHH

FLICK

GRIN

KA-PWAH

PWAH

CRACK

CRACK

SWID

BONK

SCHWAA

CRACK

YOINK

YOINK

YOINK, YOINK

YOINK

YOINK

YOINK

YOINK

PLUNK

PLUNK

URRM

THIS IS MADE FROM THE FINE BLACK HAIRS OF A HUMAN WOMAN... AND COATED WITH A SECRET OIL RENDERED FROM A WILD BEAST'S BLUBBER.

KA-THUNK

NOTHING ELSE CUTS QUITE LIKE IT, OLD MAN.

PLUNK

THUD

AH, YASHAMARU'S NINJA TECHNIQUE IS TRULY AMAZING.

HEH HEH HEH.

HEH...

SWIP

SWIP

WHAT DO YOU THINK, YAGIYUU-SAMA?

HMM...

WHINNN

...ALL TIED UP AND SPRAWLED OUT ON THE GROUND.

LOOK AT THAT KOUGA FOOL...

QUITE A PATHETIC SIGHT, DON'T YOU THINK, DANJOU-DONO?

.....

FLAP

FLAP

SWIP

GRIN

IT'S A LITTLE TOO EARLY TO CLAIM VICTORY, OGEN.

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

カン

ガ

ア

GRRRRRR

ア

!

THWIP

ヒュン

ア

ア

ア

SQUIRT

SWIPE

FLUTTER

FLUTTER

SPLAT

YANK

UH...

URR...

HEH HEH. SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI'S PHLEGM IS JUST LIKE GLUE...

...ONLY A THOUSAND TIMES STICKIER!

THUD

SWIVEL

SHUDDER

ぞ

URR...

UH...

ぞ

GRRRIP

YOUR TECHNIQUE DOESN'T WORK SO WELL WHEN YOUR HANDS ARE TIED UP, DOES IT?

.....

HA HA HA.

HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT, YASHAMARU?

FWACK

SWIP

THUNK

BOING

BOING

SHOUGEN.

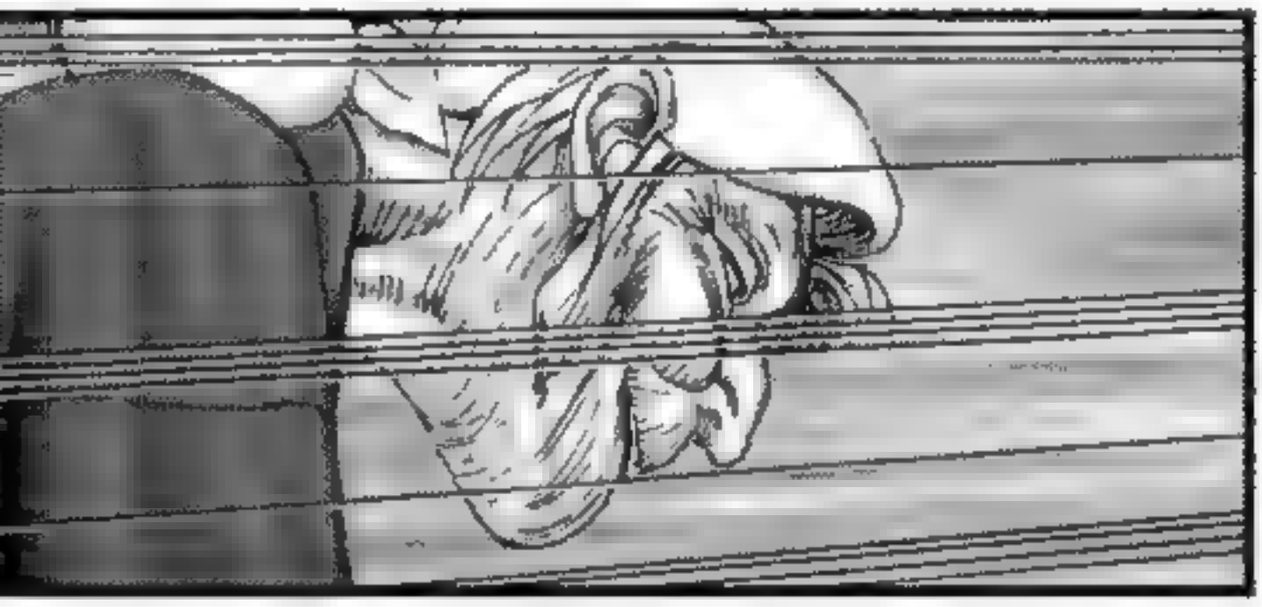
YOU'RE DEAD...

I LIKE YOUR STYLE, YASHAMARU!

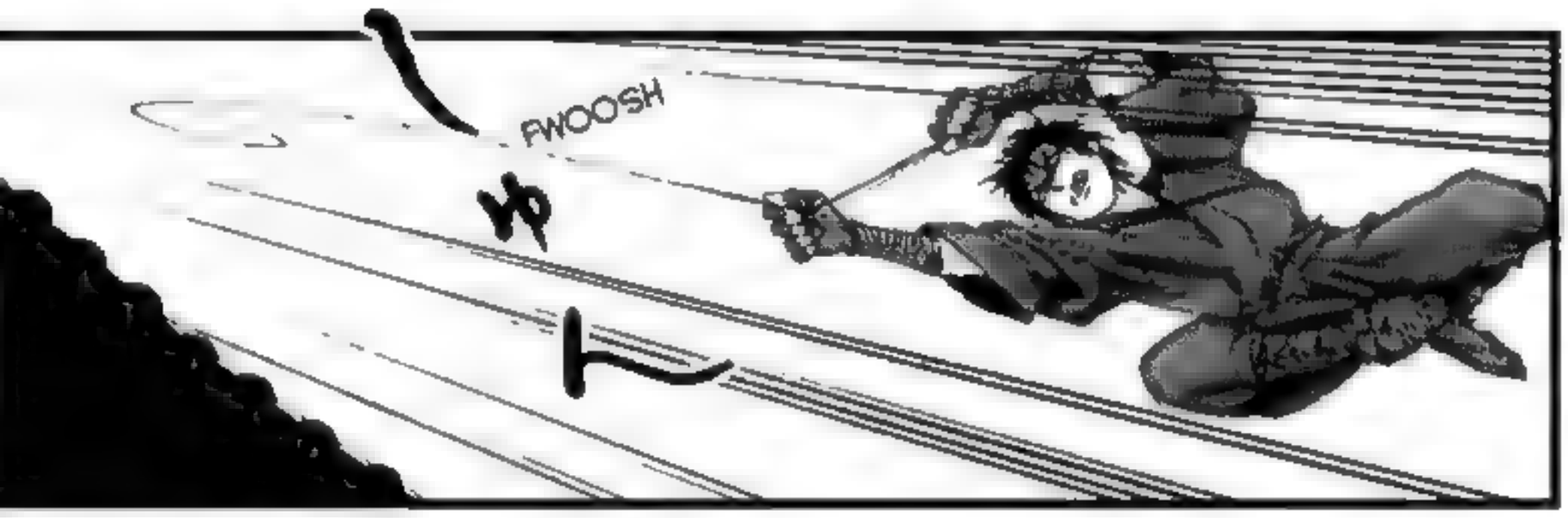
HEH HEH...

FWOOSH



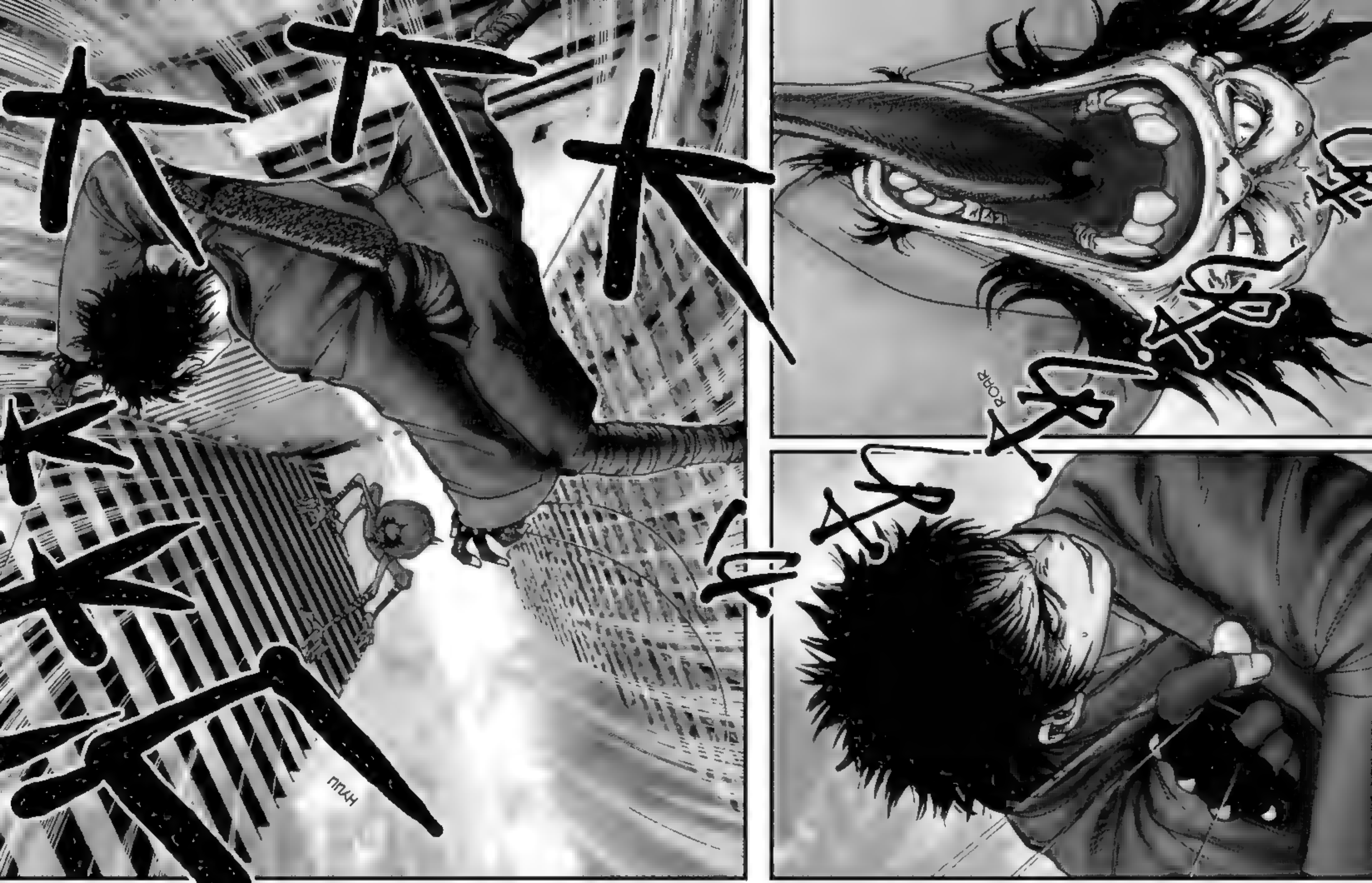





FWOOSH


PLOINK
PLOINK




ROAR
ROAR
PINK

AND OGEN, THE LEADER OF THE IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT.

THAT'S DANJOU KOUGA, THE LEADER OF THE KOUGA-MANJIDANI SECT.

WHAT INTEREST COULD IEYASU-SAMA HAVE IN THIS SORDID BUNCH?

...BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND...

I CAN SEE WHY MY PREDECESSOR FORCED THEM TO SIGN A TRUCE...

WHAT AN EVIL BUNCH...

PRECISELY.

NINJA?

SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER.

PRIEST TENKAI NANKOU

GUARDIAN OF THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUN

EVEN THE SERVANTS HAVE JOINED THE FIGHT.

RIGHT NOW, THE TOKUGAWA CLAN...

...IS DIVIDED INTO TWO FACTIONS, WITH YOUR OLDEST SON TAKECHIO'S SECT ON ONE SIDE, AND YOUR YOUNGEST SON KUNICHIYO'S SECT ON THE OTHER.

...THAT WE USE NINJA TO DECIDE WHO WILL BECOME THE THIRD TOKUGAWA SHOGUN?

ARE YOU SUGGESTING, HIGH PRIEST...

...REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT WE DEFEAT THE TOYOTOMI CLAN.

IF WE DON'T STOP THIS INFIGHTING, THE TOKUGAWA CLAN WILL BE DOOMED TO A PATH OF DESTRUCTION...

I'VE THOUGHT LONG AND HARD ON THIS DILEMMA.

WE TRIED TO SOLVE THIS MATTER USING LOGIC, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE FOR THAT.

I UNDER-STAND THAT.

THAT'S WHY I CAME TO SEEK YOUR GUIDANCE, HIGH PRIEST TENKAI-DONO.

AND WE FARED NO BETTER WHEN WE USED A PSYCHO-LOGICAL APPROACH.

HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO WASTE THE LIVES OF SO MANY TOKUGAWA SAMURAI.

AT FIRST, I THOUGHT A FITTING WAY FOR A MILITARY FAMILY SUCH AS THE TOKUGAWA CLAN TO SETTLE THIS...

...WOULD BE FOR THE TWO SIDES TO HOLD A BATTLE OF TEN AGAINST TEN.

WE WON'T SUFFER A SINGLE SCRATCH...

PRECISELY... IF WE USE NINJA...

...NINJA INSTEAD?

SO WE USE...

WHAT DO YOU THINK, IEYASU-DONO?

...EVEN IF IT ENDS IN A BLOOD-BATH.







SWAAH

CALL IT OFF.

THAT'S ENOUGH.

SLAM

THAT'S ENOUGH!

GRRIP

SCRINCH

BOING

I'VE NEVER SEEN NINJA WITH SUCH SKILL AND TECHNIQUE.

I'D HEARD MY PREDECESSOR SPEAK OF THEM, BUT...

I'M ASHAMED OF MY IGNORANCE.

I HAD NO IDEA THAT OUR NEIGHBORING TERRITORY HELD SUCH SKILLED NINJAS.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME.

DANJOU KOUGA, OGEN IGA...

THAT WAS TRULY A FASCINATING SPECTACLE.

HMM...

THANK YOU, MY LORD.

YES, MY LORD.

...TO DETERMINE THE NEXT TOKUGAWA SHOGUN.

AND NOW I'D LIKE TO ASK...

...IF YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO TEST YOUR SKILLS AS NINJA IN A FIGHT TO THE DEATH...

There may have been as many as four predecessors who went by the name Hanzo Hattori.

IF WE CAN JUST GET THAT OUT OF THE WAY—

BUT FIRST, THERE'S THE LITTLE MATTER OF NULLIFYING THE TRUCE WE SIGNED WITH THE FORMER HANZO HATTORI-SAMA.

IF THAT IS THE WISH OF THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUN, THEN I WILL GLADLY ACCEDE.

WE'VE BEEN SWORN ENEMIES FOR 400 YEARS.

WELL SAID, HANZO.

AS YOU WISH.

...ON THESE TWO SCROLLS.

WELL THEN, JUST WRITE THE NAMES OF TEN NINJAS FROM EACH CLAN...

WHEN THE DUST SETTLES AND THE KILLING IS OVER...

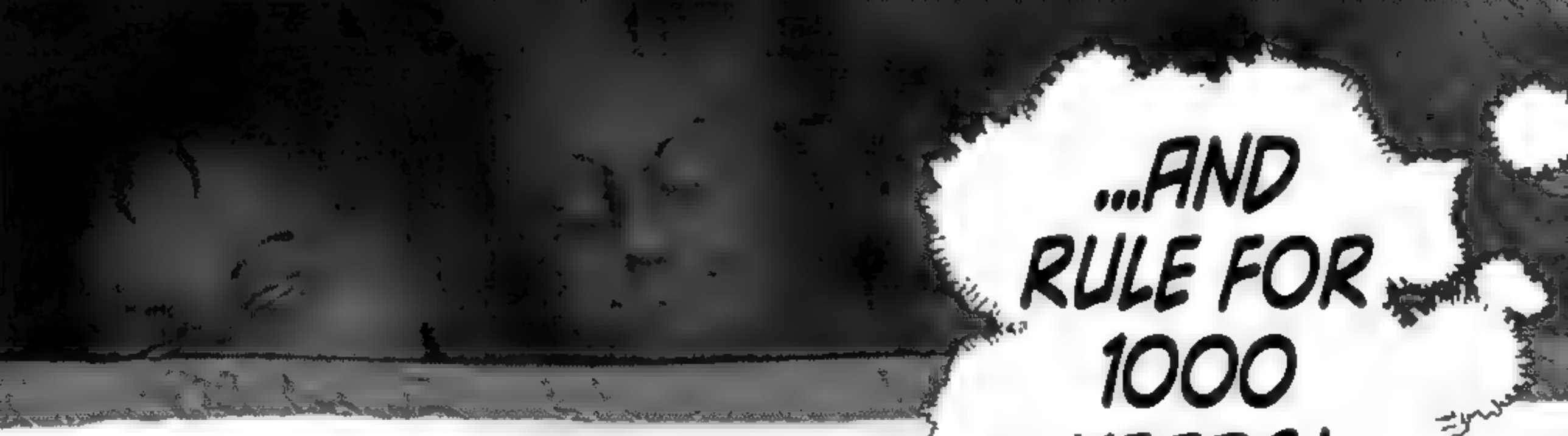
...THE SURVIVING CLAN SHALL DELIVER THIS SCROLL...

THE KUNICHIYO SECT WILL BE REPRESENTED BY THE KOUGA CLAN...

AS OF TODAY...

THIS BATTLE WILL DECIDE THE NEXT TOKUGAWA SHOGUN.

...AND THE TAKECHIYO SECT WILL BE REPRESENTED BY THE IGA CLAN.

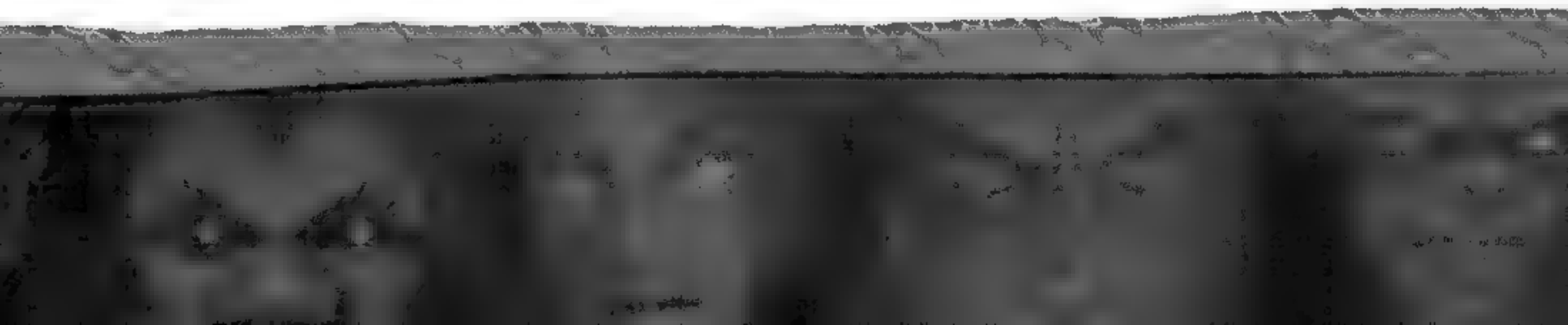


TEN COMBATANTS OF THE IGA CLAN

OGEN
OBORO
YASHAMARU
ROUSAI AZUKI
JINGOROU AMAYO
OSHIROU CHIKUMA
NENKI MINO
HOTARUBI
TENZENYAKUSHIJI AKEGINU

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN

DANJOU KOUGA
GENNOSUKE KOUGA
JUUBEI JIMUSHI
SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI
GYOUBU KASUMI
JOUSUKE UDONO
SAEMON KISARAGI
HYOUMA MUROGA
KAGEROU
OKOI



THIS CONTRACT HEREBY
NULLIFIES THE TRUCE PUT
INTO EFFECT BY HANZO
HATTORI. THE TEN KOUGA
NINJA AND THE TEN IGA
NINJA NAMED ON THIS
SCROLL WILL FIGHT TO THE
DEATH. THE SURVIVORS
MUST DELIVER THIS SCROLL
TO THE SUNPU CASTLE ON
THE LAST DAY OF MAY,
UPON WHICH THE
SURVIVING CLAN SHALL
RULE FOR 1000 YEARS.

APRIL, KEICHO YEAR 19

IEYASU
TOKUGAWA

TOKI PASS

THE BORDER BETWEEN KOUGA AND IGA TERRITORY

KOUGA

OBORO

土呂峠にて

朧

GENNOSUKE KOUGA

KOUGA-MANJIDANI SECT

GENNOSUKE-SAMA...

OBORO

IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

RIP

WHOOSH

OBORO-DONO.

AH!

FLUMP

I'M SORRY, GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

EVER SINCE MY GRANDMOTHER AND THE OTHERS GOT CALLED AWAY TO SUNPU, I CAN'T STOP WORRYING ABOUT THEM... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

WHAT'S WRONG, OBORO-DONO?

THE HATRED BETWEEN OUR TWO CLANS IS A THING OF THE PAST.

THE LETTER FROM HANZO-DONO JUST SAID THAT THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUN WOULD LIKE TO SEE A DISPLAY OF OUR SKILLS.

DON'T WORRY, OBORO-DONO.

THERE'S NO WAY OUR TWO CLANS WILL EVER FIGHT AGAINST EACH OTHER.

AS LONG AS THE PREVIOUS HANZO HATTORI'S "KOUGA AND IGA TRUCE" IS IN EFFECT...

I BET THE REASON THEY CALLED ON US...

THAT'S WHAT MY GRANDFATHER TOLD ME. HE SET OUT FOR SUNPU AS WELL.

...WAS THAT HANZO-DONO HEARD THE RUMORS OF OUR ENGAGEMENT...

...AND WANTED TO BRING THE TWO CLANS TOGETHER...

...SO THAT HE COULD OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCE IT.

I'M SORRY, GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

I GET SO WORRIED... I CAN'T HELP IT.

BUT I DON'T CARE. I LIKE YOU JUST THE WAY YOU ARE.

I KNOW YOU CAN'T HELP YOURSELF.

EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE BORN INTO A NINJA FAMILY, YOU DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT NINJA TECHNIQUE, NOT TO MENTION SWORD FIGHTING.

OGEN WOULDN'T HAVE LET ME HAVE YOUR HAND SO EASILY.

BESIDES, IF YOU WEREN'T SUCH A KLUTZ...

.....

I WISH MY GRANDFATHER AND OGEN...

...WOULD HURRY UP AND SET A DATE FOR OUR CEREMONY.

YES...

I CAN'T WAIT FOR THAT DAY TO COME.



THE BANK OF THE ABE RIVER

JUST OUTSIDE OF SUNPU CASTLE

WHOOSH

THIS IS FOR THE KOUGA-MANJIDANI SECT.

AND THIS ONE IS FOR THE IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT.

GRIN

SWIP

THINGS HAVE TAKEN A STRANGE TURN, HAVEN'T THEY, OGEN?

THE TWO OF THEM ARE PROBABLY TOGETHER SOMEWHERE EVEN AS WE SPEAK.

POOR DEARS...I SUPPOSE IT WASN'T MEANT TO BE.

...WAS ABOUT TO BRING OUR CLANS TOGETHER...

JUST WHEN THE ENGAGE-MENT BETWEEN MY GRANDDAUGHTER AND YOUR GRANDSON...

...WHEN WE WERE YOUNG.

I WAS SO IN LOVE WITH OGEN OF IGA.

YOU AND I WERE JUST LIKE THEM ONCE...

IT'S POINTLESS TO BRING THAT UP NOW.

AFTER ALL, HOW COULD WE GO AGAINST A 400-YEAR FAMILY RIVALRY?

GOD'S WILL CAN BE CRUEL.

I SUPPOSE IT WAS FATE.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW SKILLED THE TEN IGA-TSUBAGAKURE NINJA ARE, DO YOU?

HEH HEH. DANJOU-DONO...

ARE YOU AWARE OF HOW HIGHLY SKILLED THE TEN KOUGA-MANJIDANI NINJA ARE?

...BY THE WAY, OGEN.

FYUU

TEN?

THWACK

DON'T YOU MEAN NINE, OGEN?

BWING

IT'S A POISONED NEEDLE.

YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN MORE CAREFUL, OGEN.

SWIP

AHH!

AHH!

AH...

UGH...

STING

OGEN OBORO

CRUNCH

YASHA

...DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE WHEN I SLID THIS OUT OF HIS KIMONO.

LOOK! THAT FOOL YASHAMARU ...

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN

OGEN
SEIGO
YASHAMARU
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN

DAN-OU KOUGA
GENNOSUKE KOUGA
[illegible]
[illegible]
GYOUBU KAKUMACHI
IORUSHI UDONO
[illegible]
MYOUMA MURODA
[illegible]
OGO

FWIP

?

THIS IS THE END, OGEN.

DAN-

DA-

GWAASH

GYA!

GYAAAAAAA!

THUD

AHHH!

SWIP

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS...

...WHEN TWO CLANS GO TO WAR, OGEN.

FWAH

SWICK

AH!

SQUACK

FLAP

FLAP

SCHWICK

O-

SPLASH

THUD

FLIP

O...

...GEN.

HEH...

HEH HEH...

GRIN

HEH.

SWIPE

...DANJOU

...OGEN

SPLASH

THUD

GRRIP

FLAP

TSSSS

END OF KILL
NUMBER 1

OBORO-
DONO.

OKAY...

...GENNOSUKE-
SAMA.

THE RAIN HAS STOPPED. IF WE HURRY, WE CAN MAKE IT BACK TO IGA BEFORE SUNRISE.

KILL NUMBER 2

[9 VS 9]

ばさっ

FLAP

……

SQUAWK

FLUTTER

HYUU

PHEW...
I WAS WONDERING WHAT THE HELL THAT HAWK WAS UP TO...

TURNS OUT IT WAS CARRYING A SCROLL.

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

JOUSUKE UDONO

KOUGA-MANJIDAKI SECT

FLIP

FLIP

LET'S SEE...

WHO'S THERE?

THWINK

AHH!

CRACK

FLASH

WHY DON'T YOU HAND THAT OVER TO ME, JOUSUKE UDONO?

ROUSAI AZUKI

IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

A KOUGA BASTARD LIKE YOU HAS NO RIGHT TO TAKE THAT SCROLL.

THAT WAS OGEN-SAMA'S HAWK.

HA! WELL, WELL, WELL, IF IT ISN'T OLD MAN ROUSAI OF THE IGA CLAN.

SHUT UP, JOUSUKE!

JOUSUKE!

WELL THEN, THAT MUST MEAN THIS IS A MESSAGE FROM SUNPU...

I WONDER WHAT IT SAYS.

HMM...

FLIP

WE'RE ALL TRYING TO LEAVE THE PAST BEHIND US.

QWINK

I KNOW OUR CLANS ARE SWORN ENEMIES, ROUSAI...

BUT WE'RE HELD DOWN BY THE HATTORI TRUCE...

...AND GENNOSUKE-SAMA AND OBORO-SAMA ARE ABOUT TO BE WED...

FLIP

FLIP

THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M GOING TO LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS, JOUSUKE.

I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT WE CAN'T START KILLING EACH OTHER JUST WHEN GENNOSUKE-SAMA IS ABOUT TO BE MARRIED.

IN OTHER WORDS... THIS IS JUST A GAME...

A MATCH OF WITS... BETWEEN THE KOUGA AND THE IGA CLAN.

IT'S MERELY A FRIENDLY LITTLE NINJA COMPETITION.

HMMPH!

WHOOSH

HYA!

AHHHH!

かーあ

あ

AHHHH!

WHOA!

SMACK

WHACK

AHHHH!

THE VERY IDEA OF THE IGA AND THE KOUGA MAKING PEACE DISGUSTS ME!

EVEN "FRIENDLY LITTLE COMPETITIONS" END IN DEATH SOMETIMES, JOUSUKE.

CRIMP

THWONK

CRIMP

SLAM

HYA!


BOINK
GRRR
FWOOSH
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
HAHHH.... THE FLOATING BALL TECHNIQUE?
THAT FAT FREAK!

UWAHHH!

FWOOSH

YOU FAT FREAK OF NATURE!

YOU RUBBERY OLD BASTARD!

ZWOOSH

ZWOOSH

HYUH

WHOOAAA!

OBORO-SAMA.

AKEGINU

IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

OH! HELLO.

YOU'RE RATHER LATE, OBORO-SAMA.

NENKI MINO

IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

WE CAME TO LOOK FOR YOU.

HOTARUBI

IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

I TOLD YOU THAT THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME AS LONG AS I'M WITH GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

JINGOROU AMAYO

IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

WELL...

UNTIL OGEN-SAMA COMES BACK FROM SUNPU, YOU'RE THE HEAD OF THE CLAN, OBORO-SAMA.

YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL.

IT'S MY FAULT.

I APOLOGIZE. PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

?

WHOOSH

WAAH!

WHOOSH

!?

!

JOUSUKE!

OBO...

...RO?

AHH!
AH!
AHH!
OOF!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, JOUSUKE?
THUNK
ゴロ
ゴロ
ゴロ
OUCH, OUCH OUCH OUCH!

I...

I WASN'T STARING...

GE-GENNNOSUKE-SAMA... PLEASE...

...TELL OBORO-SAMA TO STOP STARING AT ME!

I KNOW YOU WEREN'T.

OBORO-DONO WAS BORN...

IT'S NOT A NINJA TECHNIQUE OR A TRICK...

...WITH THOSE DEVASTATING EYES.

THE SLIGHTEST GLANCE FROM THOSE MYSTERIOUS EYES...

... CAN RENDER THE MOST POWERFUL NINJA HELPLESS.

!

ガ RUSTLE

ガ

THAT SCROLL WAS SENT BY OGEN-SAMA!

GET THE SCROLL THAT JOUSUKE HAS HIDDEN IN HIS KIMONO!

AKEGINU!

HAHH

HAHH

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, JOUSUKE?

STARING ぎろっ

STEP スタ スタ

YOU FOOL!

I-I'M SORRY.

SMACK

JUST A FRIENDLY LITTLE COMPETITION... THAT'S ALL...

WELL...ROUSAI-DONO AND I WERE JUST HAVING A LITTLE CONTEST TO SEE WHO GETS THE SCROLL...

WAIT!

GO AHEAD, OBORO-DONO. TAKE A LOOK AT IT.

OUCH, OUCH.

WHA-WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, JINGOROU?

YOU CAN'T OPEN THAT SCROLL IN FRONT OF GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

...UNTIL SHE RETURNS.

IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT IT FROM KOUGA EYES...

THAT'S A SECRET SCROLL SENT BY OGEN-SAMA.

ALLOW ME TO EXCUSE MYSELF.

HE'S RIGHT.

.....

FWICK

PLOINK

DAMN IT! YOU IDIOT, JINGOROU!

AH, GENNOSUKE-SAMA!

OUR CLANS HAVE BEEN ENEMIES FOR 400 YEARS. YOU CAN'T BLAME THEM FOR THEIR SECRECY.

.....

HEH HEH.

HEH...

JINGOROU! WHAT DID MY GRAND-MOTHER SAY?

JINGOROU.

OGEN-SAMA AND DANJOU-SAMA ARE JUST GOING TO TAKE IN SOME OF EDO'S SIGHTS BEFORE THEY RETURN HOME.

THE KOUGA AND THE IGA HAVE MADE PEACE.

DON'T WORRY, OBORO-SAMA!

CRINKLE

WHAT WONDERFUL NEWS!

WELL!

I HAD TO HONOR MY DUTY AS A NINJA.

PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR MY POOR MANNERS, GENNOSUKE-SAMA, BUT...

HMM...

....

WHAT A GREAT IDEA, NENKI!

HEH...WELL, GEN-NOSUKE-SAMA...

WHY DON'T YOU RELAX AND STAY IN IGA FOR A WHILE?

DON'T WORRY. CONSIDER IT FORGOTTEN.

...OKAY, I'LL GO TO IGA.

PLEASE.

PLEASE.

PLEASE COME WITH US TO IGA, GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

SQUEEZE

?

I DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.

WA-WAIT A MINUTE, GENNOSUKE-SAMA!

PLEASE.

WHY DON'T YOU COME ALONG TOO, IIDONO-SAMA?

HEH... WELL...

OKAY THEN, *HEH.*

YOU LOOK AFTER THEM, AKEGINU.

WE'RE GOING TO PICK SOME MOUNTAIN HERBS BEFORE WE HEAD BACK.

NENKI, YOU HURRY ALONG AND CALL TENZEN-SAMA.

I WILL.

LEAVE IT TO ME, JINGOROU-SAMA.

GRIN

THIS CONTRACT HEREBY NULLIFIES THE TRUCE PUT INTO EFFECT BY HANZO HATTORI THE TEN KOUGA NINJA AND THE TEN IGA NINJA NAMED ON THIS SCROLL WILL FIGHT TO THE DEATH. THE SURVIVORS MUST DELIVER THIS SCROLL TO THE SUNPU CASTLE ON THE LAST DAY OF MAY, UPON WHICH THE VICTORIOUS CLAN SHALL RULE FOR 1000 YEARS.

APRIL KEICHO YEAR 19

IEYASU TOKUGAWA

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE IGA CLAN

OBORO
YASHAMARU
ROUSAI AZUKI
JINGOROU AMAYO
KOSHIROU CHIKUMA
NENKI MINO
HOTARUBI
TENZENYAKUSHIJI
AKEGINU

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN

[redacted] KOUGA
GENNOSUKE KOUGA
JUUBEI JIMUSHI
SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI
GYOUBU KASUMI
JOUSUKE UDONO
SAEMON KISARAGI
HYOUMA MUROGA
KAGEROU
OKOI

TENZEN YAKUSHIJI

IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

.....

OGEN-SAMA... IS DEAD.

AND I WOULD IMAGINE THAT...

KOSHIROU CHIKUMA

IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

.....

DANJOU KOUGA IS DEAD AS WELL.

HEH, HEH, HEH.

THAT'S THE END OF...

...THE KOUGA AND IGA TRUCE.

えっほ
ONE, TWO...
えっほ
ONE, TWO...
えっほ
ONE, TWO...
えっほ

AN OMINOUS STAR... HAS BEEN SET INTO MOTION.

THAT'S A BAD OMEN.

END OF KILL NUMBER 2

HEH, HEH.

FINALLY THE HATTORI TRUCE HAS BEEN DISSOLVED.

THEY FELL RIGHT INTO OUR TRAP!

WE LURED GENNOSUKE KOUGA AND JOUSUKE UDONO TO IGA.

SCHWING

SOON THOSE VILE KOUGA RATS...

...WILL KNOW THE TRUE POWER OF THE IGA CLAN!



KILL NUMBER 3

[9 VS 9 (PART 2)]



WHAT HAPPENED TO YASHAMARU-DONO?

TENZEN-SAMA...

YASHAMARU ISN'T THE ONLY ONE I'M CONCERNED ABOUT. WHAT ABOUT SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI? HE WENT TO SUNPU ALONG WITH DANJOU KOUGA.

YES.

HE SHOULD MAKE IT HERE LATE THIS EVENING OR EARLY TOMORROW MORNING.

HMM...IF YASHAMARU LEFT SUNPU ALIVE ALONG WITH OGEN'S HAWK...

.....

THEN WE MUST HUNT DOWN SHOUGEN FIRST...

...AND TAKE THE SCROLL!

DANJOU MUST HAVE PASSED A SCROLL JUST LIKE THIS ALONG TO SHOUGEN.

WHY?

YOU GO BACK TO IGA.

AMAYO...

I'LL GO WITH YOU!

THAT'S RIGHT! WE MUST KILL SHOUGEN!

IF SHE FINDS OUT WHAT'S GOING ON... THERE WILL BE TROUBLE.

BECAUSE OF OBORO-SAMA...

HIS EYES...

I WANT YOU TO MAKE SURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.

IF OBORO-SAMA SEES THIS SCROLL...

SHE'LL TELL GENNOSUKE EVERYTHING.

IF I GET THE CHANCE, MAY I SLAY HIM?

...GEN-NOSUKE.

YOU'D BETTER NOT...

...UNDER-ESTIMATE HIM, JINGOROU.

DON'T DO ANY-THING UNTIL WE COME BACK WITH SHOUGEN'S HEAD.

UNDER-STAND?

IF YOU SHOULD FAIL, WE WOULD LOSE OUR ADVANTAGE.

OKAY.

.....

FIRST, SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI...

...MUST DIE.

THEY HOLD A STRANGE POWER...

HE'S A FEARSOME OPPONENT.

WHOOSH

THAT EVE-NING.

ONE, TWO...

ONE, TWO...

.....

ONE, TWO...

ONE, TWO...

WHAT? ARE YOU SURE?

IT BELONGS TO JUUBEI JIMUSHI OF THE KOUGA CLAN.

WHAT'S WRONG?

I KNOW THAT CARRIAGE...

WHAT WOULD HE BE DOING HERE?

BUT...

JIMUSHI IS ONE OF THE TEN KOUGA NINJA LISTED ON THE SCROLL!

WHO CARES WHAT HE'S DOING HERE?

SHWING

SHWING

HE'S MINE!

HE'S NOT GETTING AWAY!

!

GOT IT!

SHWING

KILL ONLY THE CARRIAGE HOLDERS.

I'VE GOT SOME QUESTIONS FOR JIMUSHI!

KOSHIROU...

SLICE

ONE, T—?

FWOOSH

SKID

THUNK

ZWOOM

FWIP

FWIP

STEP

HMM... YOU'RE WITH OGEN'S CLAN, ARE YOU?

SO... WHAT HAPPENS...

...IF I REFUSE?

STEP OUT-SIDE! WE HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU.

JUUBEI JIMUSHI! WE ARE FROM OGEN'S IGA CLAN.

SCHWIP

SLICE

CHINK

CRASH

HYA!

CRASH

YOU RUINED MY FAVORITE CARRIAGE.

YOU'D BETTER DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.

JUUBEI JIMUSHI

KOUGA-MANJIDANI SECT

ME? WHERE THE HELL...

...ARE YOU AND YOUR PACK HEADING?

...JUUBEI?

WHERE WERE YOU HEADING...

TH-THAT'S JUUBEI JIMUSHI...

ACCORDING TO MY READING OF THE STARS, ILL FORTUNE HAS FALLEN UPON DANJOU-SAMA.

OH! YOU TOO?

WE CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND WAITING FOR HER...SO HERE WE ARE.

WE'RE CONCERNED ABOUT OGEN-SAMA. SHE HASN'T RETURNED FROM SUNPU.

.....

IS THAT THE EXTENT OF YOUR NINJA TECHNIQUE?

READING THE STARS, EH?

I'VE GOT A FEW QUESTIONS FOR OUR FRIEND HERE.

I'LL STAY BEHIND.

ROUSAI, YOU GO ON AHEAD AND HUNT DOWN SHOUGEN. DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

OKAY. WE DON'T WANT TO GET SIDE-TRACKED WITH JIMUSHI WHILE SHOUGEN GETS AWAY.

...BUT THERE ARE STILL A FEW KOUGA NINJA THAT I DON'T KNOW, AND YOU'RE ONE OF THEM.

WELL, JUUBEI...

I'M PRETTY FAMILIAR WITH THE KOUGA CLAN...

CLINK

YOUR STAR...

TELL ME, OR I'LL CHOP OFF YOUR HEAD!

TELL ME!

WHAT KIND OF TECHNIQUES DO THE TEN NINJA OF THE KOUGA-MANJIDANI SECT USE?

...PREDICTS ILL FORTUNE TOO!

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

HA, HA, HA, HA!

HA!

SLICE

GRRGLL...

GRIN

RATTLE

RATTLE

STAB

THUD

SPLAT

SQUIRT

HYUU

HYUU

HYUU

GULP

KACHING

THLINK

IF MY ENEMIES KNEW ABOUT MY HIDDEN WEAPON, I'D BE DONE FOR, BUT...

GRIN

BY THE TIME THEY SEE IT, THEY'RE ALREADY HISTORY.

WHAT'RE THOSE IGA BASTARDS UP TO?

I DON'T GET IT...

FLICK

HRRMPH

NOW I'M EVEN MORE WORRIED...

...ABOUT SHOUGEN AND DANJOU-SAMA.

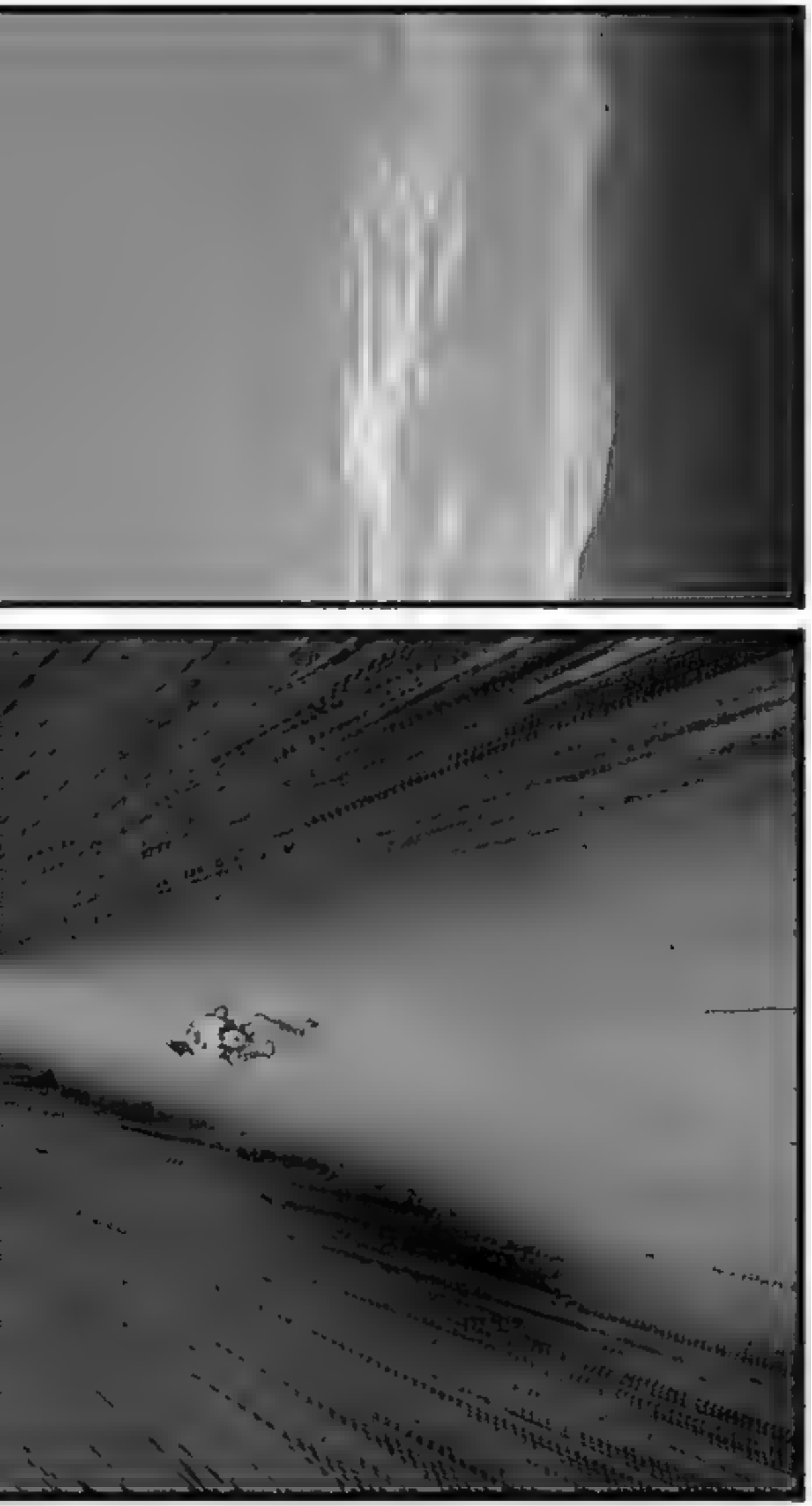
THUD

FWOOSH

FWOOSH

FWOOSH






HSOOMM

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

HYAA!

!

SQUIRT

SPLAT

UH?

WHACK

WHA-!

UH?

SPRONG





YOU'RE FROM THE IGA CLAN?

.....

RUSTLE

HAND OVER...

...THE IGA VS KOUGA BATTLE SCROLL!

END OF KILL NUMBER 3

風待将監
霞刑部
朱絹
浜火
地火十兵衛
陽炎
室賀左衛門
如月
鵜殿文助
憲川家
筑摩念康
平賀弦之介
風待将監

KILL NUMBER 4

[9 VS 9 (PART 3)]

YOU'RE FROM THE IGA CLAN?

HAND OVER...

...THE IGA VS KOUGA BATTLE SCROLL!

一月左衛門
頓狂な野郎
お勘定録ちゃん
雨夜陣
筑摩小
五郎
徳
伊賀組秘巻をめぐる
その数々
五番ちとなる
伊賀
右甲賀十人衆伊賀十人衆がしにた
人衆
なぎこえ
目
筑摩小
五郎
徳

HUH?

HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE SCROLL?

HMMPH...

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE OGEN'S IGA CLAN.

FWOOSH

SHUT UP, SHOUGEN!

FINE...

I'LL START OFF BY...

...CROSSING YOUR NAMES...

...OFF THE LIST!

FLASH

GRRR

WHA-
!

AHH!

HRRMPH

HRRMPH

SWIVEL

HRRMPH

SWIVEL

SWIVEL

SKRAK

SKRAK

!

AHH!

THUD



IT'S TIME TO CRUSH THESE THREE LITTLE IGA FLIES...

HEH, HEH, HEH...

...WHO ARE CAUGHT IN MY WEB.

GRRR...

GRRIP

LET'S SEE...

DRIP

GRRR...

.....

GRIN

...WITH THE OLDEST.

I THINK I'LL START...

ROAR
んが
IT'S YOUR TURN!
THAT'S RIGHT...
AHHH!
WAHHH!
.....
I COULD TEAR OUT YOUR EYES...
...LET YOU CHOOSE HOW I KILL YOU.
HEH, HEH, HEH. I'M GONNA...
GRRRIP
...OR I COULD JUST SLIT YOUR THROAT...
PICK ONE, ROUSAI!
GO AHEAD...
A BUTTER-FLY?
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
HUH?
FLUTTER

WHOA!

AHHHHHHHH!

AHA!


HAYAA!
!





!

TOSS ME KOSHIROU'S SCYTHE!

HOTARUBI!

HYUU

YANK

SWOOP

THWACK

XII

HUH?

WOBBLE

FLUTTER

YANK

YANK

SPLAT

DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME, YOU KOUGA BASTARD!

I CAN CONTROL MY BODY HAIR AS EASILY AS I CAN MOVE MY ARMS AND LEGS.

SQUIRT

!

HYUU

GRIP

WHAM!

HE'S STILL TRYING TO FIGHT BACK!

URR!

FWOOSH

FWOOSH

FWOOSH

FWOOSH

FWOOSH

PLOINK

CLUMP

AH!

HUH?

IS THAT...?

THA-

FLIP

JUUBEI...

JIMUSHI!

SHIT!

THAT LITTLE BASTARD!

WHOOSH

.....

SWID

UHH...

UH...

SQUIRT

IS YASHAMARU-DONO OKAY?

ANSWER ME, SHOUGEN.

SWIP

!

SPLAT

SHIVER

SLICE

UWAHH!

SHUDDER

SHUDDER

SHUDDER

SHUDDER

SLICE

STAB

STAB

SLICE

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

SHIT!

WHY CAN'T WE CATCH UP WITH HIM?

THEIR LEGS ARE NO MATCH FOR MY SNAKE-LIKE SLITHER.

FOOLS!

ORIN

V-X

WHOOSH

HUH?

WHOOSH

OTHER-
WISE, YOU
WON'T BE
ABLE TO
USE...

IT—

...CAN'T
BE...

IT...

AHH
!

YOU'D
BETTER
GET THAT
SCROLL...

... OUT
OF YOUR
MOUTH.

...THE SPEAR YOU HAVE HIDDEN IN YOUR THROAT, NOW WILL YOU?

SPROING

SCHWING

AHHH!

SLICE

STEP

I NEVER FALL FOR THE SAME TRICK TWICE!
GRIN

KACHINK

TSOOM

TENZEN-SAMA!

AH!

WHAT HAPPENED TO JUUBEI?

WHERE'S JIMUSHI?

I JUST TOOK CARE OF HIM.

THAT MISERABLE PEST.

HEY, HOTARUBI.

WHAT ABOUT SHOUGEN?

SHOUGEN...

...IS NO MORE.

THIS CONTRACT HEREBY NULLIFIES THE TRUCE PUT INTO EFFECT BY HANZO HATTORI THE TEN KOUGA NINJA AND THE TEN IGA NINJA NAMED ON THIS SCROLL WILL FIGHT TO THE DEATH. THE SURVIVORS MUST DELIVER THIS SCROLL TO THE NUNPU CASTLE ON THE LAST DAY OF MAY, UPON WHICH THE SURVIVING CLAN SHALL RULE FOR 1000 YEARS.

APRIL KEICHO YEAR 19

IEYASU TOKUGAWA

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE IGA CLAN

OGEN
OBORO
YASHAMARU
ROUSAI AZUKI
JINGOROU AMAYO
KOSHIROU CHIKUMA
NENKI MINO
HOTARUBI
TENZEN YAKUSHIJI
AKEGINU

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN

DANJOU KOUGA
GENNOSUKE KOUGA
JUUBEI JIMUSHI
SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI
GYOUBU KASUMI
JOUSUKE UDONO
SAEMON KISARAGI
HYOUMA MUROGA
KAGEROU
OKOI



IT'S THE SAME THING.

HMMPH.

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE IGA CLAN

OGEN
OBORO
YASHAMARU
ROUSAI AZUKI
JINGOROU AMAYO
KOSHIROU CHIKUMA
NENKI MINO
HOTARUBI
TENZEN YAKUSHIJI
AKEGINU

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN

GENNOSUKE KOUGA
JUUBEI JIMUSHI
SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI
GYOUBU KASUMI
JOUSUKE UDONO
SAEMON KISARAGI
HYOUMA MUROGA

APRIL KEICHO YEAR 19

IEYASU TOKUGAWA

BURN THE KOUGA SCROLL!

KOSHIROU... THERE'S NO POINT IN HAVING TWO OF THE SAME SCROLL.

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE IGA CLAN

GENNOSUKE KOUGA

YOUBU KA

JUKE UDONO

ON KISARAGI

SWIPE YOUMA MUROGA

KAGEROU

OKOI

SIZZLE

CRACKLE

THIS CONTRACT HEREBY
VALLIFIES THE TRUCE PUT
NTO EFFECT BY HANZO
ITTORI. THE TEN KOUGA
'NJA AND THE TEN IGA
INJA NAMED ON THIS
OLL WILL FIGHT TO THE
EATH. THE SURVIVORS
T DELIVER THIS SCROLL
HE SUNPU CASTLE ON
HE LAST DAY OF MAY,
UPON WHICH THE
VIVING CLAN SHALL
ULE FOR 1000 YEARS.

RIL, KEICHO YEAR 19

IEYASU
KUGAWA

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE IGA CLAN

OGEN
OBORO
YASHAMARU
ROUSAI AZUKI
JINGOROU AMAYO
KOSHIROU CHIKUMA
NENKI MINO
HOTARUBI
TENZENYAKUSHIJI
AKEGINU

SEVEN MORE TO GO...

E TEN COMBATANTS
F THE KOUGA CLAN

DANJOU KOUGA
GENNOSUKE KOUGA
JUUBEI JINMUSHI
SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI
GYOUBU KASUMI
JOUSUKE UDONO
SAEMON KISARAGI
HYOUMA MUROGA
KAGEROU
OKOI

...NO, IT WON'T.

BUT...IT WON'T BE EASY.

...AND THAT WILL BE US...

...OGEN'S IGA CLAN.

HEH...

BUT IN THE END, ONLY ONE CLAN WILL SURVIVE...

END OF KILL NUMBER 4

IGA-
TSUBAGAKURE
VALLEY

OGEN'S
PALACE

TSUBAGAKURE
SECT

KILL NUMBER 5

[7 VS 9]

WELL, AKEGINU-DONO...
SINCE I'M SO FAT...

.....

I THINK ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME.

...I'D LIKE TO TAKE A SKINNY AND BEAUTIFUL WOMAN LIKE YOU FOR MY WIFE.

.....

.....

.....

.....

HOW ABOUT IT, AKEGINU-DONO?

.....

WHY DON'T WE GET MARRIED? WE CAN BE JUST LIKE GENNOSUKE-SAMA AND OBORO-SAMA.

YOINK

...

IF WE BECAME A COUPLE...

WE COULD HELP BRING THE IGA AND THE KOUGA TOGETHER...

WILL YOU QUIT BEING SUCH A BAD DRUNK, JOUSUKE?

CAN'T YOU TELL YOU'RE MAKING AKEGINU-DONO UNCOM-FORTABLE?

RUB RUB

...AND END OUR LONG HISTORY OF HATRED.

RIGHT?

RIGHT?

...

AH, YES. RIGHT AWAY.

AH...

AKEGINU...

WHY DON'T YOU BRING OVER SOME PICKLES FOR GENNOSUKE-SAMA?

SLAM

ROLL

ROLL

SHOT DOWN AGAIN.

DAMN..

...QUITE A CHARACTER.

HE CERTAINLY IS...

PLEASE FORGIVE HIM, OBORO-DONO.

HE'S THE CLOWN OF THE KOUGA CLAN. HE'S ALWAYS MAKING TROUBLE.

GIGGLE

...

HERE YOU ARE.

CLINK

THEY TASTE A BIT DIFFERENT FROM OUR KOUGA PICKLES.

MMM, THESE ARE DELICIOUS.

CRUNCH

.....

WE ORDER OUR SALT FROM THE AKOU AREA...

...AND WE KEEP PLENTY STORED IN THE SALT SHED BEHIND THE PALACE.

IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE SALT WE USE.

GRIN

ONE MUST HAVE SALT TO FEED AN ARMY.

I'D EXPECT NO LESS FROM THE CLAN THAT SURVIVED THE BITTER TENSHOU IGA WARS.

HEH, HEH.

WELL... PREPARATION IS THE BANE OF MISFORTUNE!

UH... HEH.

SHUT YOUR TRAP.

JOUSUKE...

...

WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE.

THIS PALACE, ALONG WITH THE TSUBAGAKURE VALLEY, WILL SOON BE YOURS, GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

NO, IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT.

...YES, OBORO-SAMA. IT'S JUST AS YOU SAY.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, AKEGINU?


.....


...AND...
OUR...
KOUGA-MANJIDANI CLAN...


...EVEN WHILE UNDER HANZO'S ETERNAL TRUCE.
...HAVE DESPISED EACH OTHER AND OPPOSED EACH OTHER...
...THE TWO CLANS WITH THE MOST POWERFUL AND SKILLED NINJA...
...YOUR IGA-TSUBAGAKURE CLAN....


...A FOOLISH AND RIDICULOUS MISTAKE.
I THINK THAT HAS BEEN...

.....

YES...

...GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

THE BELLS OF PEACE WILL RING THROUGHOUT OUR TWO VALLEYS.

WE WILL BREAK THROUGH THE CHAINS THAT HAVE IMPRISONED OUR TWO CLANS, AND...

OBORO-DONO...

WHEN YOU AND I ARE JOINED TOGETHER...

AND HE'S THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT.

HMMPH... NOW HE'S GOT THEM ALL RILED UP...

WHERE ARE TENZEN AND—

HEY, THAT'S RIGHT...

I DON'T SEE THE GUYS WE MET AT THE TOKI PASS. WHERE ARE THEY?

HEY, AKEGINU-DONO.

WHAT?

I'D BETTER CHANGE THE SUBJECT.

ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME WE RETIRE FOR THE EVENING?

IT'S GETTING LATE...

O-OBORO-SAMA...

わはは HA, HA, HA

I WOULDN'T MIND CALLING IT A NIGHT MYSELF.

YEAH!

THE SAKE IS STARTING TO HIT ME. I'M GETTING SLEEPY.

GOOD.

JINGOROU-DONO, I LED JOUSUKE TO *THE ROOM.*

CLICK

WELL...

TENZEN AND THE OTHERS ARE PROBABLY DISPOSING OF SHOUGEN AS WE SPEAK...

...FIND OUT ABOUT THE SCROLL. IF OBORO-SAMA HEARS ABOUT IT, WE'LL HAVE TROUBLE ON OUR HANDS.

AKEGINU, DON'T LET ANYONE ELSE IN OUR CLAN...

I UNDERSTAND.

BUT... TENZEN-SAMA TOLD US TO WAIT.

WHY DON'T WE TRY TO CROSS THEM OFF THE LIST OUR-SELVES?

SO, AKEGINU..

...WELL THEN...

THAT'S PRECISELY WHY...

...WE SHOULD ACT.

I'LL HANDLE JOUSUKE UDONO.

SNORT...

SNORT...

ZZZ

OGEN'S PALACE ANNEX

FLUMP

KNOCK

KNOCK

HMMPH...

THIS IS A STEEL DOOR COVERED IN PAPER.

GLIMPSE

STEEL BARS... JUST AS I SUSPECTED

SLIDE

SO THEY THINK...

...THIS CAMOUFLAGED PRISON CAN HOLD ME?

HOW SAD...

GRRIP

BOING

WIGGLE

...AKEGINU DESPISES ME THIS MUCH.

...TO THINK THAT...

BYOON

WIGGLE

OR...

DID SHE HAVE SOME OTHER REASON FOR LOCK-ING ME IN HERE?

WELL...

THUD

I'D BETTER MAKE SURE GENNOSUKE-SAMA IS OKAY.

THUNK

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

TAP

RUSTLE

.....

I FEEL LIKE AN ASSHOLE LISTENING TO THEM LIKE THIS.

STOP IT, GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

TEE HEE.

OBORO IS WITH HIM.

?

CLINK

...AKEGINU?

ISN'T THAT...

.....

HE'S GONE.

BUT... HOW COULD THAT BE?

?

AH!

YOINK

WHO—

WHO THE HELL—?

SQUEEZE

HOW NICE TO SEE YOU, AKEGINU-DONO!

UH...

BOO!

JOUSUKE... DONO!

HOW- HOW DID YOU...

...GET OUT?

MY LONGING TO SEE YOU FORCED ME OUT.

I BROKE OUT SO THAT I COULD SLEEP BESIDE YOU, MY LOVE.

SO, AKEGINU-DONO...

AREN'T YOU HAPPY?

YANK

...JUST FOR TONIGHT?

HOW ABOUT BEING MY WIFE...

!

YANK

FWAP

SQUASH

OUCH!

OH!

SHOCK

WHOA!

STEP

FLAP

OOF.

SWIPE

KACHINK

IF I LOSE, I WILL BE YOUR WIFE FOR THE NIGHT...

...JUST AS YOU DESIRE. HOW ABOUT IT, JOUSUKE-DONO?

HOW ABOUT A LITTLE FRIENDLY COMPETITION, JOUSUKE-DONO?

MY, MY... WHAT A PLEASANT SIGHT.

I'M NOT GONNA PULL ANY PUNCHES JUST BECAUSE WE'RE ONLY PLAYING, AKEGINU-DONO.

WELL, A FRIENDLY FIGHT BETWEEN TWO NINJAS SOUNDS INTERESTING, BUT...

?

?

UH...

NOR AM I.

UH...

AHHH!

TSS

SPLAT

AHHH!

AHHHH!

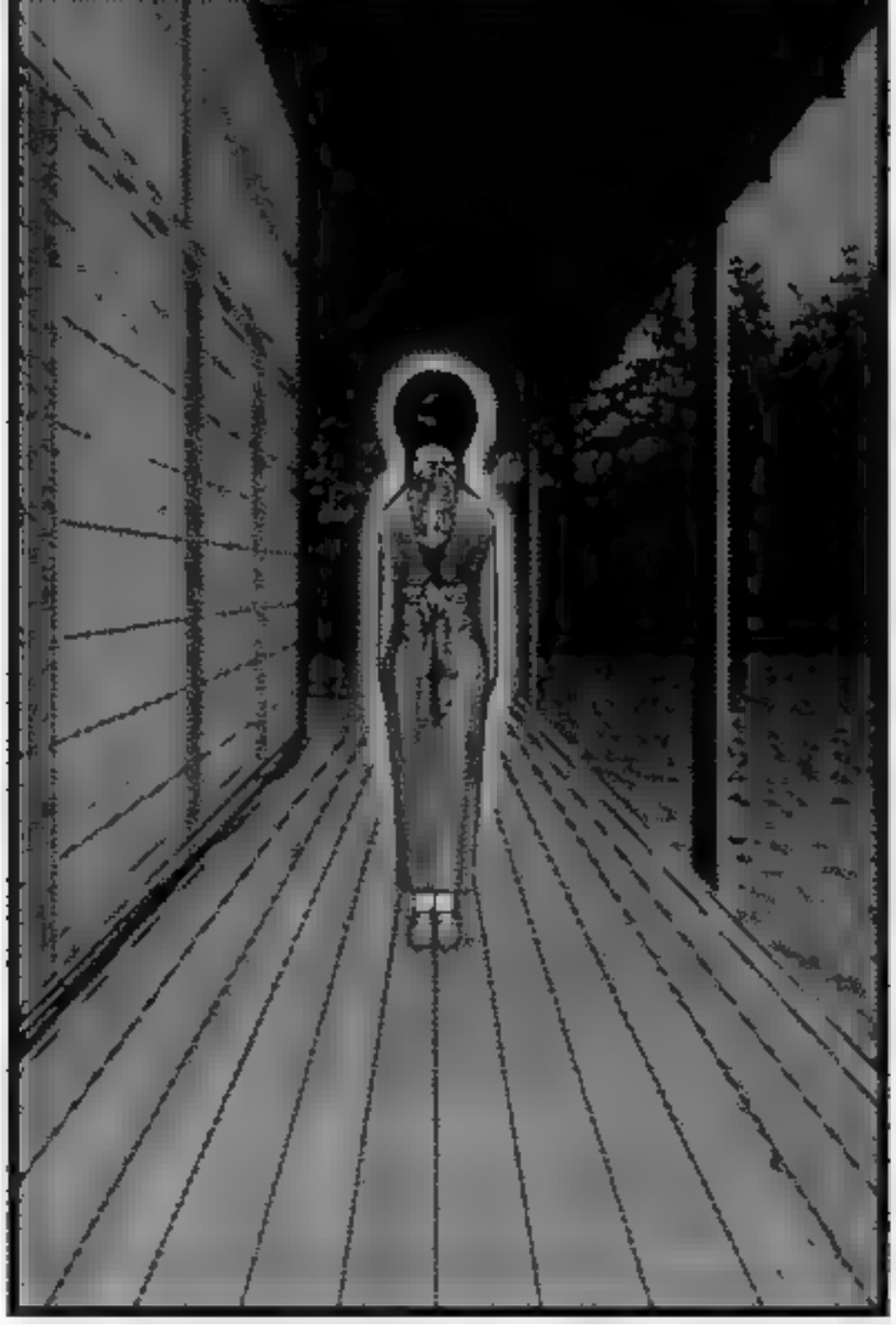
WELL...

GOODNIGHT, GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

TAPPA

TAPPA

AHH!







END OF KILL NUMBER 5

...JINGOROLL...

COME DOWN FROM THERE!

UH...

UH...

UHH...

SHUDDER

SHUDDER

KYUU

JINGOROU!

KILL NUMBER 6

[7 VS 9 (PART 2)]

SPLAT

ん

と、

SHUDDER
SHUDDER

UH...

DRIP

13°
3
D

OBORO-
SAMA-

YOU'RE USING YOUR SECRET TECH-NIQUE...

JINGOROU...

PLEASE-

DON'T-

DON'T LOOK AT ME.

...AND SLAY HIM.

SO YOU CAN SNEAK UP ON YOUR ENEMY...

YOU COAT YOURSELF IN SALT AND MELT AWAY...

UHH..

UH..

JINGOROU!

ANSWER ME!

YOU WEREN'T...

...TRYING TO ATTACK GENNOSUKE-SAMA, WERE YOU?

I CAUGHT YOU RED-HANDED, AND NOW YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS TO SUFFER...

THAT'S YOUR PUNISHMENT, JINGOROU.

HOW PATHETIC...

WA-WATER...

UH...

SPLAT

I DON'T CARE WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE IN THE IGA CLAN...

IF YOU TRY TO HARM GENNOSUKE... I'LL DO WHAT-EVER IT TAKES TO STOP YOU.

!?

AAHHH!

WATER...
UH...
WA...
WATER...
?
?
WAAAA-
-TER...
WATER...
WATER...
PLEASE...
TAPPA
TAPPA

SWIP

BLIP

BLIP

SHIT!

WHERE THE HELL IS AKEGINU?

SHIT!
THIS BLOODY FOG IS SO THICK, I CAN'T SEE A DAMN THING.

SHE DIS-APPEARED.

SLICE

ザシュ

THUD

ガッ

WOBBLE

ヴラ

GRIN

ヘラ

TIME TO CROSS JOUSUKE UDONO'S NAME OFF OF THE KOUGA LIST.

AH!

BOING

BOING BOING BOING

SWACK

HOW THE HELL...

...CAN HE STILL BE ALIVE?

ZAP

WHY ARE YOU BEING SO CRUEL, AKEGINU-DONO?

I THOUGHT WE WERE JUST PLAYING AROUND. WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO IF I END UP DEAD?

SQUEEZE

SQUEEZE

...IF IT WEREN'T FOR MY SWORD-STOPPING FLESH-GRAB TECHNIQUE!

I WOULD'VE BEEN DOOMED...

SWAB

PLOINK

LOOKS LIKE I WON THIS TIME, AKEGINU-DONO.

GLARING

.....

O-OBORO-SAMA...

AKEGINU?

HOW COULD YOU ATTACK JOUSUKE—

AKEGINU?

.....

I'D PREFER IF GENNOSUKE-SAMA DIDN'T FIND OUT ABOUT THIS LITTLE INCIDENT.

YES, OF COURSE.

ACTUALLY, OBORO-DONO...

I'M THE ONE WHO LOST CONTROL... I RIPPED AKEGINU-DONO'S KIMONO OFF...

...AND SHE GOT A LITTLE ANGRY.

...

THAT'S-

WE-WELL...

HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT, OBORO-DONO?

AKEGINU-DONO ISN'T VERY FRIENDLY.

.....

GOOD NIGHT, JOUSUKE-SAMA.

Y-YES...

LET'S GO, OBORO-SAMA.

GRIP

HMMPH... AKEGINU REALLY WAS...

...TRYING TO KILL ME BACK THERE.

WELL...

...I GUESS I SHOULD FIND A WELL OR SOMETHING SO I CAN WASH OFF ALL THIS BLOOD.

SPLOOSH

HMMPH..SHE MUST REALLY HATE ME.

MAYBE SHE WAS JUST TRYING TO DEFEND HER PRIDE.

WAAATER...

WATER...

WAATER...

SPLOOSH

REAR WATERFALL - OGEN'S PALACE GROUNDS

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

HUH?

SQUISH

OGEN'S PALACE IS SO HUGE.

I GET LOST EVERYWHERE I GO.

THIS MUST BE THE SALT STORAGE SHED SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT.

?
?

I DON'T KNOW...BUT THIS SURE LOOKS LIKE A TRAIL.

IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING CRAWLED OUT OF THERE... AND LEFT A TRAIL?

WAIT!

HMMM...

THAT'S THE ROOM WHERE GENNOSUKE-SAMA IS STAYING.

WATER...

WA...
TER...

WAAATER...

WAAATER...

STEP

WAAATER...

.....

WAAATER...

PLEASE...

HYUU

HYUU

THAT WAS YOUR TRAIL LEADING FROM THE SALT SHED TO GENNOSUKE-SAMA'S ROOM.

SO IT WAS YOU... YOU FILTHY BEAST.

JINGOROU AMAYO...

WAAATER... PLEASE...

AAHHHH!

SHIVER SHIVER

...TO CHANGE SHAPE AND ATTACK GENNOSUKE-SAMA, WEREN'T YOU, AMAYO?

YOU WERE TRYING...

HEH...

SPLOOSH

YOU'RE PRETTY THIRSTY, AREN'T YOU, AMAYO?

SPLOOSH

OKAY... SPILL IT!

AAAHHH! WAATER!

WAATER!

TELL ME THE ANSWER, AND YOU CAN HAVE ALL THE WATER YOU WANT, AMAYO.

...JUST WHEN THE IGA AND THE KOUGA ARE ABOUT TO MAKE PEACE?

WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL GENNOSUKE-SAMA..

SPLOOSH

THE HATTORI... TRUCE HAS BEEN...

AAHHH!

...DISSOLVED.

DRIP DRIP

IGA AND—

KOUGA ARE...

WIGGLE

AHH...

DRIP

WHA- WHAT? THE HATTORI TRUCE?

AND?

SPLOOSH

AAHHH!

THE WAR HAS BEGUN!

SPIN

SPLOOSH

WHAT ABOUT IGA AND KOUGA?

SQUIRT

SPLAT

AAHH!

DAMN, I SLIPPED!

HE MUST'VE ABSORBED SOME ENERGY FROM THE WATERFALL'S MIST.

HRRRNNNN

THERE'S NO WAY I'LL DROWN!

FOOL! I CAN HANDLE MYSELF IN THE WATER!

あああああ

HAHHH

GLUB

GLUB

GLUB

GLUB

SPLASH

GASP

ハッ

FWOOSH

ハッ

GASP

SPLASH

SPLOOSH

SPLOOSH

SPLOOSH

GLUB

GLUB

SPLASH

SPLASH

SPLASH

THWUP

BLEAH

OWAH!!

RRRRID

HEH,
HEH.

AAHHHHHHHHHHH!

SPLUNK

STEP

SPLOOSH

SPLOOSH

...IS NO MORE.

THAT TAKES CARE OF ONE OF THE TEN KOUGA NINJA. JOUSUKE UDONO...

GRIN

KOUGA-
MANJIDANI
SECT

DANJOUK
OUGA
PALACE

SIZZLE

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

.....

HYOUMA MUROGA

KOUGA MANJIDANI SECT

JIMUSHI'S READINGS ARE USUALLY ACCURATE, BUT...

WELL...

GYOUBU KASUMI

KOUGA MANJIDANI SECT

YOU MEAN, BECAUSE JUUBEI JIMUSHI'S READING OF THE STARS PREDICTED ILL FORTUNE FOR DANJOU-SAMA AND SHOUGEN?

COULD SOMETHING HAVE GONE WRONG IN SUNPU?

GENNOSUKE-SAMA HASN'T RETURNED SINCE HE LEFT TO MEET OBORO OF THE IGA CLAN...

THAT REMINDS ME...

SAEMON KISARAGI

KOUGA MANJIDAKI SECT

.....

HE SAID THAT GENNOSUKE-SAMA AND JOUSUKE WOULD BE STAYING IN IGA FOR A FEW DAYS.

LAST NIGHT, AN IGA MESSENGER ARRIVED.

GRIP

WHY IS GENNOSUKE-SAMA SO DESPERATE...

KAGEROU

KOUGA MANJIDAKI SECT

...TO SEE THAT OBORO GIRL?

TO BE CONTINUED IN BOOK 2

about the authors

FŪTARO YAMADA

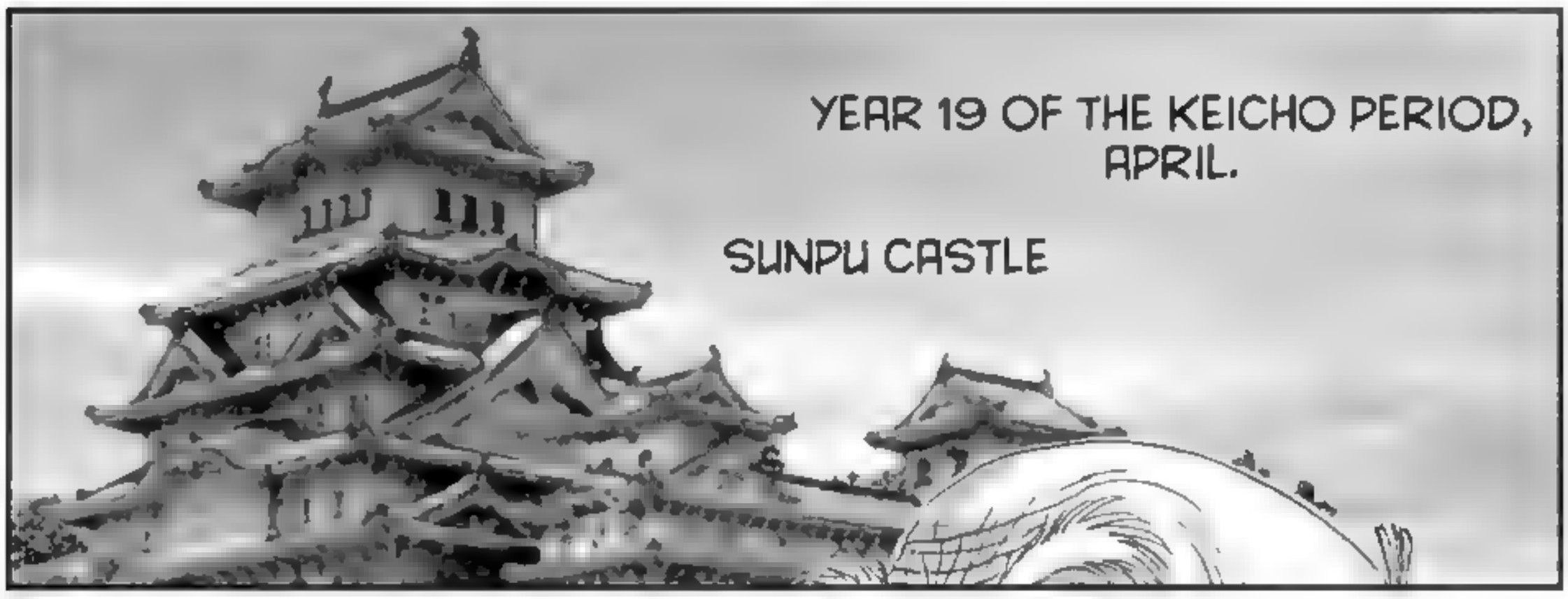
Born in 1922 in Hyogo Prefecture,
Fūtaro Yamada made his debut as a novelist while still a student at Tokyo Medical University. Yamada was known for his mystery novels such as *Ganchuu No Akuma*. Later his Ninja Scrolls series became wildly popular. He penned a wide body of literature, including the period piece *Makaitensei*, as well as several collections of essays such as *Ato Senkai No Banmeshi* and *Ningen Rinjyuu Zukan*.
He passed away on July 28, 2001.

MASAKI SEGAWA

Masaki Segawa made his debut in 1997 with the series Senma Monogatari, which ran in the weekly comic *Morning*. In 1998, he began his long-running *Uppers* magazine series Onigiri Jyuuzou, which ended in 2000. This is his second long-running series, and his first adaptation. He loves cats and watermelon.
He currently resides in Funabashi.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.



***THE KEICHO ERA*, PAGE 7**

The Keicho Era took place between 1596–1615. Year 15 of the Keicho Era would be the year 1610. Sunpu is the ancient name for the city of Shizuoka, where Sunpu castle was situated. Sometime in the early 1580s, Ieyasu Tokugawa took over the castle. Although Tokugawa lived in Edo for most of his life, he spent his later years in Sunpu. The ruins and rebuilt sections of the castle can still be visited today.



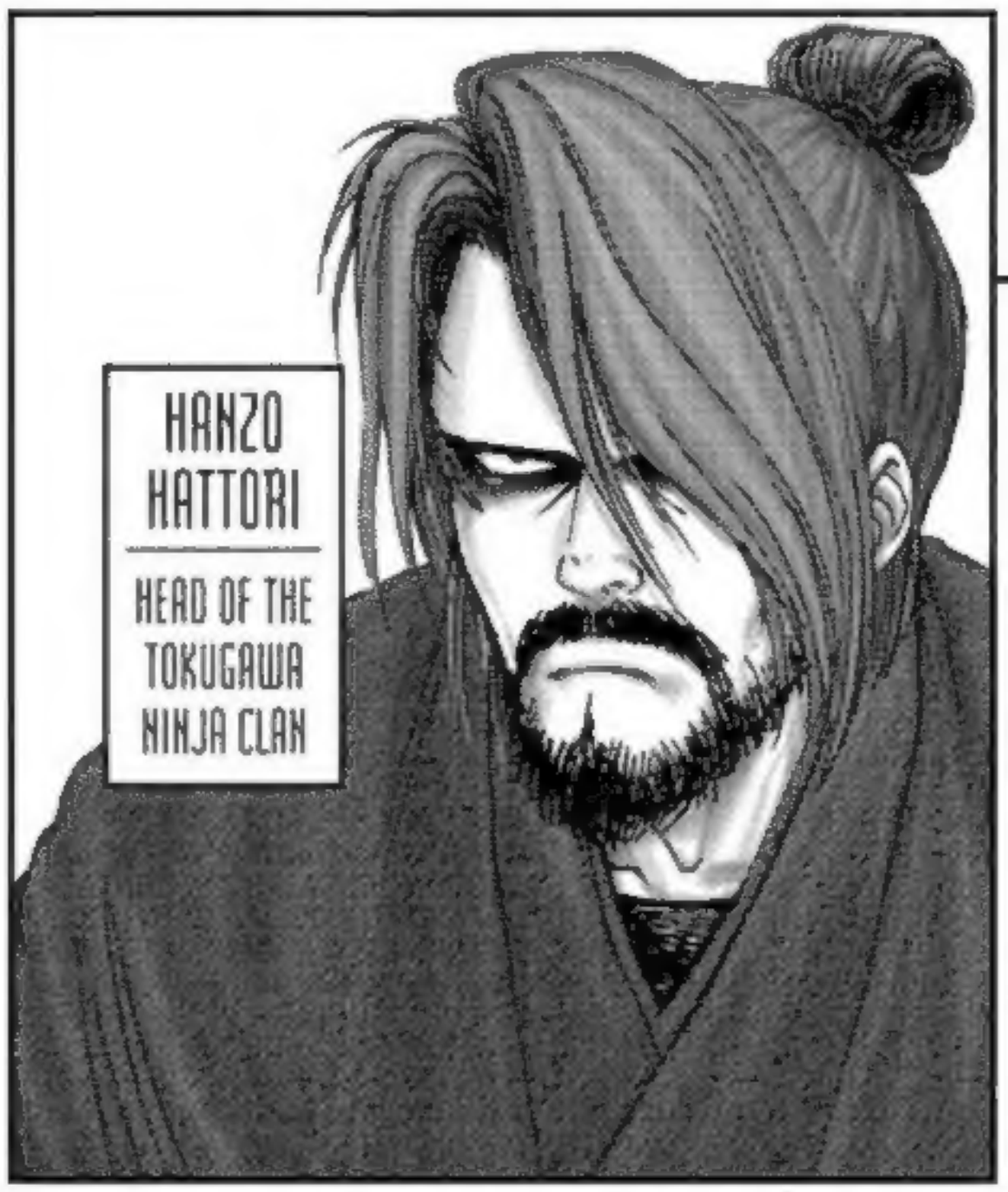
IEYASU TOKUGAWA, PAGE 7

Ieyasu Tokugawa (1543–1616) was the seventh Tokugawa shogun. After the emperor granted him the position of shogun, Tokugawa set up his government in Edo (Edo is the old name for Tokyo).

MUNENORI YAGYUU, PAGE 7

Munenori Yagyuu (1571–1646) was a skilled swordsman who served Ieyasu Tokugawa and taught swordplay to the Tokugawa samurai.





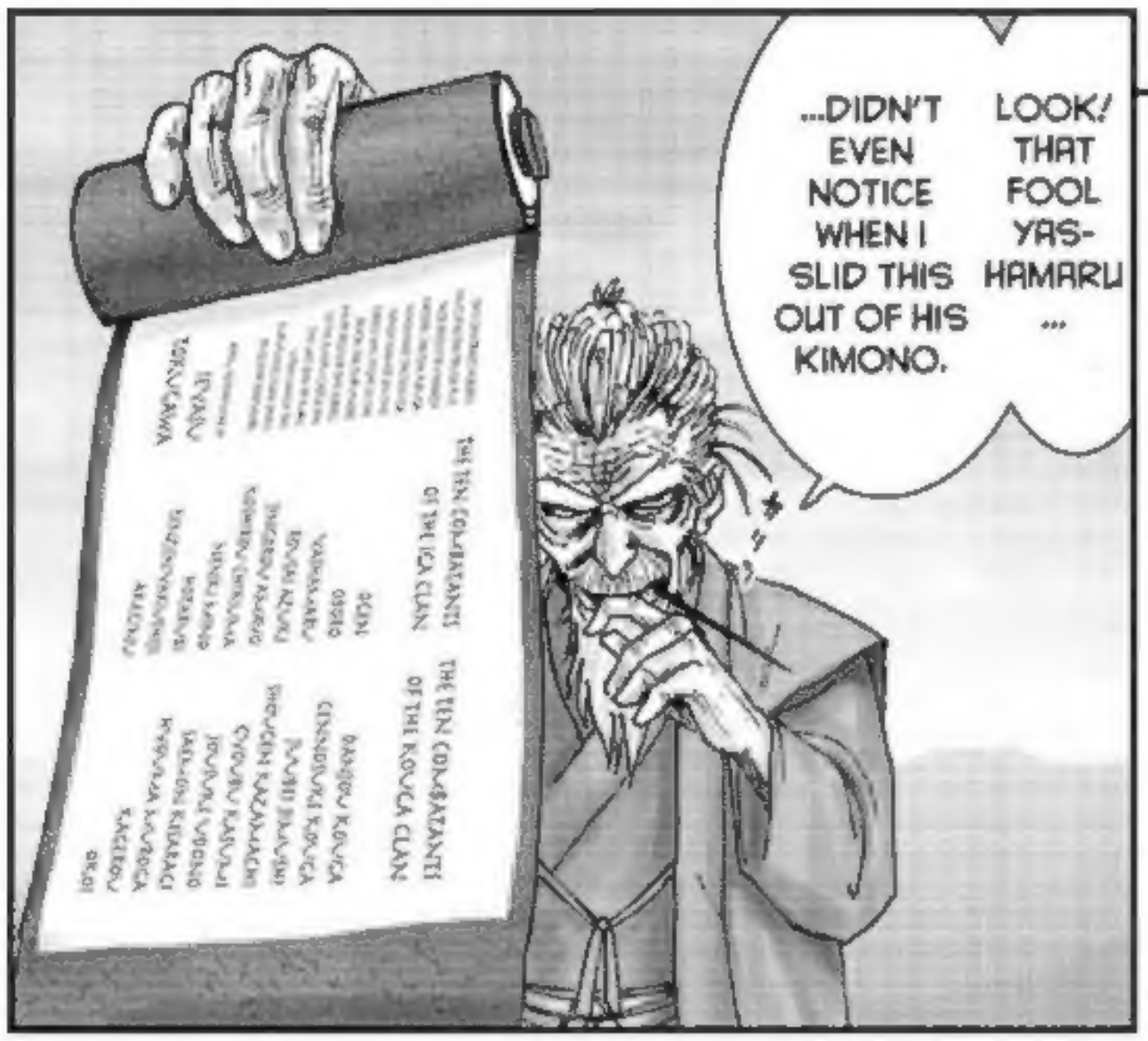
HANZO HATTORI, PAGE 7

Hanzo Hattori (1541–1596) was a famous ninja who loyally served Ieyasu Tokugawa. The scroll on page 26 refers to Hattori's predecessor, who was also named Hanzo Hattori. It is believed that there may have been as many as four predecessors who went by the name Hanzo Hattori.

DONO, PAGE 15

The honorific term "dono" after a person's name is used throughout Basilisk. "Dono" is an archaic honorific that is even more formal than "sama." It is only occasionally used today.




...DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE WHEN I SLID THIS OUT OF HIS KIMONO.
LOOK! THAT FOOL YAS-HAMARU ...
THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE IGA CLAN
THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN

FUTOKORO, PAGE 43

Danjou Kouga actually slid the scroll out of Yashamaru's "futokoro." The futokoro is the place at the chest where two parts of a kimono come together. The futokoro was commonly used as a place to hold one's valuables.



***SANSAI*, PAGE 77**

Amayo mentions that his crew is going to pick "sansai." Sansai are vegetables such as young fern shoots and wasabi sprouts that grow in the mountainous areas of rural Japan. Sansai are often added to soba and udon soups.



***KOU NO MONO*, PAGE 151**

"Kou no mono" is an archaic term for pickled vegetables. In modern times, they are generally called "tsukemono." The Japanese eat a variety of pickled vegetables, such as cucumbers, eggplant, and daikon radish, to name but a few.



***FUSUMA*, PAGE 160**

The door in Udono's room is called a "fusuma." Fusuma are wooden doors covered with hard paper. When Udono realizes the door is actually made of steel, he knows that the Iga clan is up to something.